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State running out of money for new roads

April 28, 2008

Arizona will run out of money to build new roads by 2015, according to the state Department of Transportation.

``What we're looking at is really what we believe is a crisis," says ADOT Director Victor Mendez. ``We have a situation where, by the year 2015 or 2016, about the only thing we're going to be able to do on the state highway system is to maintain the system."

Part of the problem is that the state is growing just as the cost of building new roads increases, says ADOT Director Victor Mendez, ``and we had a revenue stream that really has not adjusted since the early 1990s other than the growth factor."

Mendez and Gov. Janet Napolitano have suggested a 1-cent sales tax as part of the solution, but Mendez said that won't be enough to keep up with growth.

Business leaders pushing the tax, along with government leaders, hope to put the idea on the November ballot. They need to gather 153,365 signatures by July 3 to qualify for the ballot.